

THE *Rush-Light.*

28th FEB. 1800.

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BY PETER PORCUPINE.

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British Empire

1800

The British Empire in 1800 was the largest empire in the world, covering more than a quarter of the globe. It included territories in North America, the Caribbean, South America, Africa, Asia, and Australia. The empire was built on trade, naval power, and colonial administration. The British Empire was a source of wealth and power for Britain, and it played a major role in the development of the world. The empire was also a source of conflict and controversy, as it was often seen as a symbol of British imperialism and exploitation. The British Empire was a complex and multifaceted institution, and it has left a lasting legacy on the world.

At the end of the 18th century, the British Empire was at its peak. It had reached its maximum extent, and it was a source of great pride and power for Britain. The empire was a testament to British strength and influence, and it was a source of inspiration for many people around the world. The British Empire was a symbol of British greatness, and it was a source of pride for the British people. The empire was a source of wealth and power for Britain, and it played a major role in the development of the world.

THE
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BEING THE SECOND NUMBER OF VOLUME I.


“ Neither do men light a candle, and put it under
“ a Bushel, but on a candle-stick ; and it giveth light
“ to all that are in the house.”

ADVERTISEMENT.

IF we may judge from present appearances, the circulation of the *Rush-Light* promises to be more extensive than that of *Porcupine's Gazette*; and, as it is the Editor's resolution to make this light (unless it should be prematurely extinguished) glimmer throughout the United States, he proposes to insert, upon additional white wrappers, *advertisements*, upon the same terms, and in the same way, that they are inserted in the London Magazines and Reviews. The advantages which such a vehicle has, over a news-paper, for the advertising of Stage Coaches, Lottery Schemes, public undertakings of all sorts, New Books,
6 Prospectuses,

Prospectuses, Patent and other Medicines, and, in short every thing out of the common line of business, must be evident to every one who reflects on the number of hands which a pamphlet like this passes through, and on its long duration compared to the transitory existence of an open sheet, which is committed to the flames, or something as destructive, after the first or second perusal.

As to the *terms*: nothing will be advertised *gratis*, except the celebrated *Canal Lottery*, No. II. and “*Dr. Rush’s celebrated purging powders.*” Other advertisements will be inserted at the rate of 4 dollars for a whole page, of the same dimensions and type as the blue wrapper that covers each number of the *Rush-Light*. If continued, each continuation will be half the price of the first insertion. No advertisement under a quarter of a page will be admitted. These prices are but very little higher than those of the newspapers, while the benefit derived cannot fail to be fifty times as great. It is hoped, also (and indeed, this is the chief inducement with the Editor), that, as the body of the work will suffer no diminution in its bulk by this regulation, the reader will find the advertisements an agreeable and useful addition.

 ADVERTISEMENTS for the Third Number must be received by the Editor on, or before, the 12th of March; and afterwards, on, or before the 12th and 27th of every month.

RUSH

RUSH AND HIS SUPPORTERS.

(Continued from No. I. page 41.)

The Rusbite System of Depletion,

*With a statement of Porcupine's reasons for opposing it,
and a defence of the publication for which he was sued by Rush.*

THE novel system, adopted by Rush, is most aptly denominated, the system of *Depletion*; for the merit of it entirely consists in *emptying* the veins and the intestines with an expedition heretofore unknown and unheard of. Of the effects of this system the people of America have heard and *felt* enough, but of its origin many of them are totally ignorant. For most of the great discoveries, especially those which have contributed to the depopulation of the earth, we are indebted to what appears to have been mere accident, which was also, in some sort, the mother of the System of Depletion.

“As yet snuffling was not,” when a puritanical king-killing saint happened to be led by the spirit to visit a holy sister, who gave him a present that broke down the bridge of his nose. And, as yet MERCURIAL PURGES, and “bleeding almost to DEATH,” were not counted amongst the means of preserving life, when the Pennsylvanian “Hippocrates” happened to stumble on a smoky old

old manuscript present received from Doctor Franklin. But, before I enter on the particulars of this fortunate accident. I must state certain circumstances by which it was preceded.

RUSH had constantly endeavoured to place himself *at the head* of something or other: and, as is common with persons possessed of vanity too great to suffer them to remain quiet in obscurity, and of talents too contemptible or tempers too fickle to enable them to attain to superiority by the ordinary course of advancement, he had ever been upon the search for some discovery, some captivating novelty, to which he might prefix his *name*, and thus reach, at a single leap, the goal at which men seldom arrive but by slow, cautious, and painful approaches. To a determination to become a great man in defiance of niggardly nature, might be fairly attributed all the solemn fooleries of this versatile Doctor, who, in his impatient pursuit after fame, had chopped and changed from science to science, 'till at last, like the straggling hound, he had the mortification to see himself outstripped in the chase by the slow-motioned companions whom he formerly despised. *

VARIOUS

* JUST such another being is that *pestilential* writer, Noah Webster, junr. "*Esqr.*" This poor creature, who, had he been content to move in that sphere, for which alone nature intended him, would, by this time, have been a very tolerable teacher, and would have gained an honest and reputable livelihood, has, by his vanity and presumption, rendered

VARIOUS were the tricks that he tried; Religion, Morals, Jurisprudence, Literature, Economy, Politicks and Philosophy, all became, at times the subject of his plans and his projects. Still, however, fame fled from his grasp. His "*Original Essays*," though aided by puffs in abundance, excited a laugh, and that was all. The learned languages were still taught in the schools; little girls still played with dolls, and parents, still kept sharp knives and pointed scissars from the hands of their children; men still used tobacco, and women continued to sweeten their tea with West-India sugar. Thus baffled, thus first despised and then forgotten, as an author, the Doctor saw no hope of rendering himself distinguished but as a *physician*. On this, therefore, he appears to have resolved, much about the time that the Yellow Fever of 1793, offered an opportunity favourable to the enterprise. He had, by those arts which men of his stamp never fail to employ, obtained

some

rendered himself successively, an object of indignation, contempt, ridicule, and pity. From the collision of two such bodies as Rush and Webster one might naturally expect something strongly expressive of emptiness, and, accordingly, a farcical anecdote of their first meeting in Philadelphia, where Webster had just been appointed a teacher in the Episcopal Academy, is worth relating.

SCENE THE STREET.

Enter Rush and Webster.

Rush.—How do you do, my dear friend? I congratulate you on your arrival in Philadelphia.

Webster.—You may, if you please, Sir, congratulate Philadelphia on the occasion !!!——(*They embrace.*)

some trifling marks of respect amongst certain philosophical bodies in Europe;* he had thrust himself into many of the public institutions in America; he read chemical lectures to the young "Ladies" in the Philadelphia Academy, and clinical lectures to the young "Doctors" in the university of Pennsylvania; but, all this did not make him a first rate medical man. His practice was still confined to that class of people who are not the best qualified to judge of, or the most able to reward, scientifick merit.

To

* RUSH's pleader, Hopkinson, observed that his learned client had received honours and compliments from the *East-Indies* and from the *West-Indies*. I should like to know whether these honours and compliments came from the Moors or the Gentoos, from the Negroes or Mulattoes. Probably King Toussaint, hearing that our famous phlebotomist is treasurer of the Mint, may have conceived him to be a personage worthy of his "high consideration." I wonder Hopkinson had not produced some proof of his client being held in great esteem by their Majesties, Kings Bull-Dog and Hanging-Maw, at whose court he himself had the *honour* of a public audience.

BUT another of the pleaders, Ingersol, went further. He told the jury, that his client was an *honorary* member of *almost* every Society in *Europe* or in the *world*. When I was a boy, we used to say, that *almost* and hard-by saved many a *lie*; but, I can hardly allow master Ingersol to take shelter under this salvo. Amongst the learned societies that ought to be supposed capable of judging of Rush's merits, are, certainly, those of Great Britain; and I can assure the reader, that, notwithstanding all the efforts of the Doctor, his name has never met with any thing worthy of being called *honour* from those societies. He has, indeed, been noticed by two or three little knots of visionaries in France and Germany, amongst whom any man may purchase an *honorary* membership with the price of a pair

To recover his lost ground, to relieve himself from this humiliating situation, and to tower over the heads of his envied brethren, he seized, with uncommon alacrity and address, the occasion presented by the Yellow Fever, the fearful ravages of which were peculiarly calculated to dispose the minds of the panic-struck people to the tolerance, and even to the admiration, of experiments, which, at any other time, they would have rejected with disdain. Besides this debilitated state of the public mind, Rush had several other circumstances in his favour: the only newspaper (that of Brown), which continued to circulate in the city, was almost entirely under his controul; his clamorous professions of republicanism had gained him numerous partizans amongst the class of citizens who could not flee to the country; and the physicians, whose opinions he had to encounter, though highly respected by all classes

pair of shoes a-piece for the president and vice-president. ---Ingersol descended to particulars, and in this he was singularly fortunate. He mentioned *Dr. Trotter* as having borne testimony to the merits of Rush; but, without knowing, perhaps, that *Dr. Trotter* had also borne testimony, and in a more decided and publick manner, to the merits of *Perkins's Metallic Points !!!* It is pity the pleader had not been apprized of this fact. What a fine opportunity for exulting at the triumph of American genius over the "obloquy and contempt cast upon it by the proud philosophers of Europe!" And let it be remembered, too, that these two great men have arisen *since the revolution*; since these states have been a *Republick*. Had such lights begun to blaze forth under the Monarchy, I doubt that some one would have been found tyrannical enough to put the extinguisher on them.

classes, were men of too peaceable a turn to enter the field with a person, who scrupled not, at the very opening of the campaign, to carry the war into the publick-prints, and though many of them were by no means deficient in point of spirit, they probably thought it beneath the dignity of their characters to engage in a contest, of any sort, with a *Discoverer of Nostrums*. The reflecting on these circumstances, which would have damped the spirit of a man of real science, acted as a stimulus with the enterprising Rush, who, so that he gained a *name* amongst the multitude, seemed totally regardless as to its being purchased by the contempt of his skilful contemporaries. *

HE did not, however, according to his own account of the matter, go incautiously to work; but took all those preliminary steps, which serve to give the air of plausibility to an unjustifiable procedure. He first consulted, as usual, with the college of physicians; he learnt the particulars, and

* MANY are the anecdotes which the Philadelphians relate of the disgusting vanity of this man; but I do not, at present recollect one so perfectly in character as the following. Rush had advanced, in one of his lectures or essays, some wild and ridiculous position, for which he was reprov'd by a gentleman who knew him. "Well, well," replied he, "never mind it; only say, it is *à la mode de Rush*."---Paltry, despicable vanity! If however, *notoriety* be still his only wish, that wish is *now* in a fair way of being gratified even to satiety.---By the aid of a Philadelphia court and jury, he has procured an ample provision of *money* and of *fame*.

and tried, or pretended to try, the effects of the practice of every individual physician of note: then, and not before, he broached his *grand discovery*. The manner in which this discovery was made, with the pranks that he played before and after it, would, if we could forget the melancholy circumstances that accompanied them, furnish an admirable subject for the pencil of a Moliere.

At the first breaking out of the Yellow Fever, he made use of "*gentle purges*;"* these he laid aside, and had recourse to "*a gentle vomit of ipecacuahna*;" next he "*gave bark in all its usual forms of infusion, powder, and tincture, and joined wine, brandy and aromatics with it*;" this was followed by "*the application of blisters to the limbs, neck and head*;" these torments were succeeded by "*an attempt to rouse the system by wrapping the whole body in blankets dipped in warm vinegar*;" he next "*rubbed the right side with mercurial ointment, with a view of exciting the action of the vessels through the medium of the liver*;" after this he again returned to bark, which he gave "*in large quantities, and, in one case, ordered it to be injected into the bowels once in four hours*;" and, at last, having found, that wrapping his patients in blankets dipped in warm vinegar did no good, he

* SEE his Account of the Yellow Fever of 1793, page 193 and the following.

he “ *directed buckets full of cold water to be*
 “ *thrown frequently upon them !!!*”

SURPRIZING as it may seem, his patients *died* ! Thus baffled, as he tells us, in every attempt to stop the ravages of the fever, he anticipated all the numerous and complicated distresses attendant on pestilential diseases. “ Heaven alone,” says he, “ bore witness to the anguish of *my* soul ! But,” proceeds he in the same strain of disgusting egotism, “ I did not abandon a hope that the disease might yet be cured. “ I *had* long believed that good *was* commensurate with evil, and that there *does* not exist a disease for which the goodness of Providence *has** not provided a remedy.” And, modestly presuming, that he was (as he afterwards boasted in print) the instrument chosen by providence for discovering the remedy, which it had, in this case provided, he tells us, that he applied himself with fresh ardour to the investigation of the Yellow Fever, and, for a long time, in vain. But, says he, “ before I desisted I *recollected* that I had “ *among some old papers, a manuscript account*
 “ of

* READER, I beg you to pay attention to the *grammar* of this sentence, and to recollect, that the writer of it has published what he calls “ *literary essays* ;” that he has had the assurance to decry the mode of teaching, followed in the schools and universities, and the intolerable imprudence to propose its abolition, to make way for a *plan of his own* ! It is astonishing that amongst the hundreds of men of learning and genius who have been reviled by this illiterate pretender to universal knowledge, no one has ever undertaken to expose him.

“ of the Yellow Fever, as it prevailed in Virginia,
 “ in the year 1741, which had been put into my
 “ hands by Doctor Franklin, a short time before
 “ his death.”—This present, which was not the
 only one Franklin bestowed on Philadelphia,
 proved to be, in its qualities, something like that
 which poor Hercules received from Dejanira.

RUSH tells us (A. of Yellow F. of 1793-p. 197),
 that he was much struck with certain passages of
 this old manuscript, but particularly with one, in
 which the writer observed, that “ an ill-timed
 “ *scrupulousness about the weakness of the body* was
 “ of bad consequence,” and he declared that he
 “ had given a purge, “ *when the pulse was so low*
 “ *that it could hardly be felt.*” *—Reading on,
 Rush says he came to the following words :—
 “ This evacuation must be procured by *lenitive*
 “ *cholagogue purges.*”

“ HERE,” says he, “ I paused,—A new train
 “ of ideas *suddenly* broke in upon my mind.”—
 He then mentions his former *scruples* ; but, adds
 he, “ Dr. Mitchell” [the man of the old manu-
 script] “ *in a moment* dissipated my ignorance
 “ and my *fears*. I adopted his theory, and prac-
 “ tice,” and [without any trial] “ *resolved* to
 “ follow them !!”

HAVING, “ in a moment,” formed this reso-
 lution

* I wonder whether this intrepid fellow was a progenitor
 of the *modest* Dr. Mitchell of New York? The latter is
 the founder of the “ *Mitchellian*” something or other,
 I have forgotten what,

lution, he very soon proceeded to put it in practice. The "*chologogue purge*" that he fixed upon was composed of ten grains of calomel and fifteen of jalap. To this purge, which the inventor sometimes called the *Sampson* of Medicine, was added *copious blood-letting*; a most powerful co-operater!

WITH these *remedies* the Pennsylvanian "Hip-pocrates" set to work in the beginning of September. This practice gained no partizans, except amongst the ignorant beings who were about his person, or who had recently been his pupils. But, what with the public rage for wonder-working medicines, the noisy boasting of the Rushites, and the delicacy which imposed silence on such men as Drs. Khun and Wistar, the mercurial purges became popular, and the Discoverer so elated that he thought it no longer necessary to suppress the suggestions of his vanity: accordingly, on the twelfth of September, he actually came out in the news-papers with an exulting recommendation of the use of *his* specificks as the only means of saving the lives of the sick.

VARIOUS were the publications that he now sent through the papers, in the form of paragraphs, cards, letters, &c. in one of which he asserted, that, in consequence of his discovery, there was no occasion for fleeing to the country, for that the Yellow Fever was no longer a dangerous disease, but was *now* perfectly under the power of medicine. He concluded this card to the people,

people, which was published on the twelfth of September, by saying, that, with *his* remedies, “there was no more danger to be apprehended from the Yellow Fever, than from the *measles* or the *influenza*.” On the seventeenth of the same month he concluded a letter to the College of Physicians (who entirely disapproved of his practice) by positively declaring, that, could *he* visit all the sick, and be assisted with proper nurses, the disease would soon be reduced, in point of danger and mortality, to a level with a *common cold* ! Still rising in audacity he wrote to Dr. Rodgers of New-York, on the third of October, a letter, which was immediately published, and in which, after speaking of the practice of the other physicians in terms the most contemptuous, he asserted, that *he* recovered *ninety-nine* patients in a *hundred* !

ON the impudence and insolence of these publications the reader will ask for no comment, and their *falsehood* (if, indeed, that will admit of a doubt) shall be amply proved, after I have given some account of the Doctor’s practice of *Emptying*, and of his coadjutors in carrying on the noble work.

THE practice was, as he said, very simple and very efficacious ; for it consisted merely of bleeding upon bleeding, sometimes to one hundred and fifty ounces, and of purge upon purge, sometimes to sixty grains of mercury and to ninety grains of jalap ! It would be highly presumptuous

ous in me to pretend to give *my own* objections to this, or to any other mode of treating a disease ; and, therefore, though such unmerciful bleeding and purging seem to be synonymous with death itself, I shall state the objections which were made by those gentlemen, who were, who are, and who will remain, at the head of the medical profession, in America.

THESE gentlemen insisted that *the purges* were of too drastick a nature ; they compared them to *arsenick*, and said it was a dose for a horse. —They said that the mercury excited salivation, even to loosening the teeth.* —They said, that it inflamed and lacerated the stomach and the bowels ; and, in proof, they cited a dissection made at Bush-hill, wherein were exhibited the horrid effects of the mercurial purges. —They further said, and as far as I was able to learn, with great truth, that this violent and dangerous purge, though it must inevitably be destructive in weak habits, was prescribed indiscriminately in all cases, to persons of both sexes, and of all ages. —Finally when the calls of humanity compelled them, after long forbearance, publickly to protest against these dreadful doses, they reprobated the use of them in the strongest terms. Doctor Currie, who was one of the College of Physicians

* RUSH replied to this objection by saying, that he “ met “ with but two cases in which there was a *loss* of teeth “ from this medicine.” —But, my dear “ Hippocrates,” there is some little difference between *loosening* and *losing* one’s teeth. You think it is nothing I suppose, unless your patients’ teeth drop into his porridge ?

sicians, earnestly besought the poor deluded Philadelphians to open their eyes, to beware of the new remedies ; for, said he, "*the mode of treatment advised by Dr. Rush, cannot, in the Yellow Fever, fail of being CERTAIN DEATH.*"

As to the *bleeding* part of the practice, the same learned and experienced gentleman said, and I believe, most truly, that it was *dangerously copious*, and that many persons had been destroyed by it*.—They said, that if the patient happened to survive such copious discharges of the vital fluid, they produced weakness, and that their consequences often terminated in the total ruin of the constitution.—Here also they justly complained of the want of discrimination, and asserted that blood-letting was prescribed in all cases, without any regard to the habit, the age, or the force of the diseased.

To each of these objections Rush replied by producing patients *who had survived* the treatment objected

* RUSH, in replying to this objection, has these words :
 " As a *proof* that I did not draw one ounce of blood too much, it will be only necessary to add, hæmorrhages frequently occurred *after* a third, a fourth, and in one instance, *after* a sixth bleeding had been used."—Now, reader, of whatever nation, kindred or tongue you may be, if you live in an American sea-port, and have a life that you think worth preserving, do not proceed an inch further 'till you have carefully and candidly perused a short article towards the close of this pamphlet, entitled, "*The ignorance of the Pennsylvanian Hippocrates exposed.*"—Turn to it immediately, I conjure you, and do not quit it, 'till you have read it **three times over.**

objected to! That is to say, by proving to the satisfaction of the most incredulous that *every one* he touched did not die! Nobody ever contradicted him; for it was never doubted, that there were constitutions capable of resisting even his prescriptions. For instance, he mentions Mr. Mierken as being able to *work* in the sugar-house, in nine days after his last bleeding; but, he takes good care not to say how much, or rather how little, blood Mr. Mierken lost, and, in the language of one of his opponents, he remembers to forget to say that Mr. Mierken is the Hercules of Philadelphia; that his amazing strength is proverbial, and that, as to his *working* in his sugar-house, it is as ridiculous as would be to talk of an Admiral's *working* on board his ship.—But, I know of no man who surpasses Rush in what is vulgarly called, cheating the devil of lie. This statement respecting Mr. Mierken, is no unfair specimen of his candour.

HIS co-operators, in the practice above described, were his former pupils, *Leib, Porter, Annan, Woodhouse*, and *Mease*, men, who, as *physicians*, were scarcely known. Leib, to the celebrity of whose morality I shall dedicate some future number of this work, has, since the Fever of 1793, found it prudent to quit the healing, art and become (God save the while!) a *legislator*. Of Dr. Porter I never heard, 'till he resigned his *no-salary* post in the Dispensary, because his colleague Dr. Reynolds (the United-Irishman had been turned out by the managers of that institution.

Dr.

Dr. Annan is, I believe dead. I never knew him; nor did I ever hear his name mentioned three times in my life. Mease, the *grateful* Mease, the reader saw enough of, in the first number of the Rush-Light; but, if any criterion be wanted respecting his professional character and the extent of his practice as a Physician, let it only be remembered, that in 1797, four years after the period of which we are now speaking, he thought himself happy in the office of Physician of the Port, which confined him to an island several miles from the city, upon a salary of about nine hundred dollars a year, an income little exceeding that of a journeyman mechanick in Philadelphia. As to poor Woodhouse, or, as Rush calls him, Dr. Woodhouse, I refer the reader to an article in the next number, entitled the "RAVING RUSHITE." To the abovenamed practitioners are to be added, of course, five pupils, who yet remained under the tuition of Rush.

SUCH were the medical characters, of whose concurrence and whose aid the Doctor had to boast. I shall now speak of the irregular brethren and sisterhood, who were called in to assist in administering the potent mysteries, and whom the High Priest very properly calls the "undisciplined sect of practitioners." Of this sect which was tolerably numerous, Rush records the exploits of a few of the most eminent; these were, a *Popish Priest*, a *German Apothecary*, an *Auctioneer*, two *Old Women*, and a brace of *Negro*
Parsons

Parsons, the REVEREND ABSALOM JONES and the REVEREND RICHARD ALLEN!!!*

OF this motly squad the two Reverend Negroes seem to have been his favourites; for, says he, "they spent all the intervals, in which they were not employed in burying the dead, in visiting the poor who where sick, *and in bleeding and purging them*, agreeably to the directions" [his directions] "which had been published in all the newspapers." He has the impudence to add, that the success of these fellows, "was unparralleled by what is called *regular practice*." But, ask any man, who had the mortification to be a spectator of their operations, and he will tell you what

* AMONGST the numerous evils, which the spirit of equality has produced in the United States, the degradation of the *Clerical Character*, is not the least; and, amongst the causes, which have produced this evil, the admission of Negroes to the ministry has not been the least efficient. Philanthropick dreamers may say what they please; they may tell us, that we are all men, and all made by the same Almighty hand; but we see that this same Almighty hand has made some *white* and others *black*, and, 'till these two colours shall appear the same to our sight, we never shall believe that whites and negroes were intended to live upon an equality with each other. But, as if the degradation of the clergy were not completed by the admission of members of the African race, the abovementioned aid de camp of Rush, the Rev'd. Mr. Allen, joins to his profession of clergyman that of *chimney-sweep*; thus exhibiting an impious resemblance between the most vile, and most sacred functions; for, he is still dressed in *black*, whether in his clerical or his lay character, and he still obeys the injunction to *cry aloud and spare not*, whether he peeps from the pulpit or from the chimney, and whether his vociferations are directed against sin or against soot.

what bloody and dirty work they made amongst the infatuated creatures who submitted to their treatment.

WHEN the reader casts his eye on the wretched city ; when he sees Rush's *sister*, his pupils, and, perhaps, twenty apothecaries' apprentices besides, all making packets of mercury ; and when he sees the swift poison (for such mercury is, when improperly used) committed to the hands of old women and negroes, he will not be surprised at the fatal consequences : instead of astonishment at the vast increase of the bills of mortality, he will find ample occasion for thanksgiving that a single man was left alive.

BUT, Rush on the contrary, blessed God for the discovery he had made, and for the success of his practice. In his abovementioned letter to Dr. Rodgers of New York, he modestly observed that he had been " the unworthy instrument in the hands of a kind providence of recovering *more* than *ninety-nine out of a hundred* of his patients ;" and he had before, with not less modesty, publicly proclaimed in Philadelphia, that, with the aid of *his* remedies, the Fever was, " in point of danger and mortality, reduced to a level with the *measles*, the *influenza*, or a *common cold*." In his account of the Yellow Fever of 1793, a work written after he had had time to reflect, and to retract these assertions, he repeats them with additional effrontery, and thus deprives himself of all claim to an exemption from the charge of *intentional falshood*. He gives no *list* of his patients ;

patients; an omission not to be accounted for otherwise than by his assurance that such a list would give the lie to his assertions, and, of course, withdraw the only prop by which the virtue of his famous discovery was supported. The evasion, by which he attempts to account for this omission, is the most pitiful that ever suggested itself. "I regret," says he "that it is not in my power to furnish a list of them, for a *majority* of them were poor people, whose names are still *unknown* to me."—Can you believe this, reader? Can you imagine that this man, who was labouring with might and main to establish his reputation on the success of a discovery, to which he had prefixed his name, would omit to note down the names of those he cured? Recollect, too, that his system was opposed by other physicians; that the public had been cautioned against his practice, as against "*certain death*." Under such circumstances, had he cured *more than ninety-nine out of a hundred*; nay, had he cured but ninety-nine out of a *thousand*, can you believe that he would have omitted to note down the *survivors*? He says a *majority* of his patients were poor people. But this did not prevent him from recording the names of the *minority*: and, besides, poverty does not deprive men of their *names*; nor are the names of the poor any longer, or more difficult to write down, than those of the rich. The Grand Discoverer had several underlings in his house, and though they did, indeed, die off pretty fast, in spite of the specifick powders, there was one, at least, I believe, left alive to take down the names of the patients.

patients. When I was in the army I frequently wrote from eight to ten regimental muster-rolls in one day, amounting, in all to about four thousand names: Rush must have had a fearful trade, if his register would have had more work than this. Moreover, suppose that, contrary to the dictates of common prudence as well as to the laudable example of Dr. Perkins and all other great discoverers, the registering of the names had actually been neglected, 'till the very hour when the Doctor *regretted* that he could not furnish a list; how easily might he have repaired the loss by an advertisement in the news-papers, calling on all those who had been cured by him, to send their names to his house? He was not very delicate, God knows, in thrusting his remedies into vogue; and, why he should be more delicate in obtaining proofs of their wonderful effects, is, I think, hard to be satisfactorily accounted for. No doubt can be entertained, that his patients (I mean the *live* ones) would have rejoiced in an opportunity of bearing testimony to the virtue of those means by which they had been rescued from the jaws of death. Never did a healing discovery fail of success for want of certificates of its efficacy; on the contrary, wonder-working nostrums are always indebted for a great portion of celebrity, to the importance which each lucky patient attaches to his existence, and to the vanity which almost every one has, of appearing in print. I repeat, therefore, that a notification in the papers, would have received immediate attention; and that, the patients, whom the discovery

covery had left alive, would have vied with each other in a speedy communication of their names; unless, indeed, they were *all* in the state of the unfortunate woman, who was described to Rush by Dr. Woodhouse, and, "who *after* her recovery, " *could not recollect her name !!!*"—Poor souls! If the Doctor had advertised, few of them would, I am afraid, have recollected their names!*

FORTUNATELY, however, for Philadelphia, and unfortunately for Rush and his discovery, a bill of *mortality* was kept by the officers of the city. This bill of mortality, compared with the vaunts of the Doctor will enable any one to form a tolerably accurate judgment, not only of the truth of his statements but of the saving effects of his remedies, as applied by himself and his numerous assistants.

THE Yellow Fever of 1793 broke out on the first of August, and from that day to the eighth of September the number of deaths had been various, once as low as three and once as high as forty-two. Now it was, that mercury and the lancet began to be put in motion, and I beseech you reader to mark their progress. "List! list! " O list!"

ON

* SEE Rush's Account of the Yellow Fever of 1793, page 64.—But, when the reader has taken a view of this Dr. Woodhouse, in the article entitled the "*Reviving Rush-ite*," in the next number, he will be able to judge pretty correctly of the degree of credit due to the statement of this subaltern reporter.

ON September the twelfth Rush began to recommend his powders by publick advertisement. He, at the same time, told the people not to leave the city; that there was no longer any danger, for that his discovery had put the Fever upon a level with the *measles*, the *influenza*, or a *common cold*. For some days previous to this the ravages of the Fever had become less alarming, the bill of mortality had fallen from forty-two to twenty-three per day; and, as Rush had reduced the disease, in point of danger, to a level with a *common-cold*, the poor Philadelphians, who were carried away by his noisy impudence, began to hail him as their deliverer from a calamity, which they now looked upon as nearly at an end. But, *Death*, who seems always to have had an implacable grudge against the Pennsylvanian "Hippocrates," persecuted him, in the present instance, with more severity than ever; for, from the day, on which Rush declared that his discovery had reduced the Fever to a level with a *common-cold*; from the day, on which he promulgated the infallibility of his nostrum, from that day did the bill of mortality begin to increase in a fearful degree, as will be seen by the following extract.

	DAYS.	DEATHS.
September:	11th	23
	12th	33
	13th	37
	14th	48
	15th	56
	16th	

	DAYS.	DEATHS.
September	16th	67
	17th	81
	18th	69
	19th	61
	20th	67
	21st	57
	22nd	76
	23rd	68
	24th	96
	25th	87
	26th	52
	27th	60
	28th	51
October	29th	57
	30th	63
	1st	74
	2nd	66
	3rd	78
	4th	58
	5th	71
	6th	76
	7th	82
	8th	90
	9th	102
	10th	93
	11th	119

Thus, you see, that though the Fever was, on the 12th of September, reduced to a level with a common cold; though the lancet was continually unsheathed; though Rush and his subaltern

erns were ready at every call, the deaths did actually increase ; and, incredible as it may seem, this increase grew with that of the very practice which saved more than ninety-nine patients out of a hundred ! Astonishing obstinacy ! Perverse Philadelphians ! Notwithstanding there was a man in your city, who could have healed you at a touch, you continued to die ! Notwithstanding the precious purges were advertised at every corner, and were brought even to your doors and bed-sides by Old Women and Negroes ; notwithstanding life was offered you on terms the most reasonable and accommodating, still you persisted in dying ! Nor did barely dying content you. It was not enough for you to reject the means of prolonging your existence, but you must begin to drop off the faster from the moment that those means were presented to you ; and this, for no earthly purpose, that I can see, but the malicious one of injuring the reputation of the “ saving “ Angel,” whom “ a kind providence had sent “ to your assistance !”

BUT, it was not only amongst the people in general that the Doctor met with this mortifying perverseness, even the members of his own household, those who dipped in the same dish with him, and who were to share in his honours, seem, in like manner, to have conspired against the fame of his discovery ; for, of his sister and five pupils, all of whom were attacked with the Fever, *four* had the ingratitude to seal, with their death, the condemnation of his practice.

THIS fact, which the discoverer would doubtless have concealed, if he could, gave a mortal blow to the Rushite system. When the Doctor was called on, as he was repeatedly, for a *list* of his patients, he pretended he had kept none; when the dreadful increase of the bill of mortality was shown to have begun with the use of his remedies, he replied, that this increase was occasioned by the want of *timely* application, by that timidity which prevented patients from losing blood, or swallowing mercury, enough, and by a want of proper nurses. These reasons, though they could not possibly account for the *increase* of the bill of mortality, might, in some sort, account for its *not decreasing*, and might also, as far as they applied to the city in general, be opposed, with some plausibility to the charges brought against the *inefficacy* of the new discovery; but, they could, in no way whatever, be applicable to the brethren and sisterhood, who were not only fully persuaded of the virtue of, but were employed in preparing and administering, the infallible remedies, more especially to the happy few, who resided under the same roof with the "saving Angel" himself. These fortunate beings were, undoubtedly, kept in that state of preparation recommended in the Doctor's bills; they lived in a fine airy house, and wanted for no menial assistance; they could not suffer for want of a *timely* application of the remedies, for, besides that the great "Hippocrates" himself was always within call, each patient, the sister excepted, was himself a bleeder, and they all had the life-preserving purges continually
under

under their fingers: yet, notwithstanding all these advantages, there died no less than *four* out of the *six*; and, as this is the only authentick record, from which a judgment can be formed of the Doctor's success, we have an undoubted right to proceed, in our calculation, from the known to the unknown, and to conclude, accordingly, that, instead of *saving* more than ninety-nine, he lost at least sixty-six, out of every hundred of his patients! And, to close the melancholy account, it does not appear, from a list which came out early in the Fever of 1797, under the signature of one of the *pupils* who had the good fortune to survive, that this triumphant practice, when carried to its full extent, saved or rather *spared*, more than 22 out of the hundreds and hundreds, who were said to have submitted to it! * Well might Doctor Currie, call upon his fellow citizens "to *open their eyes*!" Well might he assure them that Rush's yellow fever remedies were "*certain death*!" †

SUCH

* **THIS** list was published in all the Philadelphia papers on the 14th September, 1797. It was signed by John Redman Coxe, and was intended to *remove the fears* entertained of copious bleeding; but, while the list itself proved, that the Rushites sometimes bled to a 100 or 150 ounces, it could produce but 22 persons who had been able to resist a bleeding of upwards of 50 ounces! Coxe did not perceive that he was establishing, in place of removing, the fears entertained of the practice. But, in mistakes of this kind, he only followed the example of his too sanguine preceptor.

† If this be a libel, let Rush prosecute Doctor Currie Nay, let him prosecute himself; for, though Dr. Currie wrote

SUCH, reader, was the origin, and such were the first blessed fruits, of the far-famed *system of Depletion*. It remains for me to give my reasons for endeavouring to explode it, and to justify the means I made use of for that purpose.

IN the dispute of 1793, Rush was fairly defeated, notwithstanding he wrote more in the several news-papers than all the other physicians put together, and notwithstanding he plyed his "dear Philadelphians," his "dear fellow citizens," with more than quantum sufficit of that oily lingo, for which he has long been renowned. His "dear fellow citizens" loved coaxing well enough, but they loved life better. Still resolved, however, not to acknowledge himself in an error, but to support

wrote and published the condemnation, the great "Hippocrates" re-published it; and, according to the decisions of the courts of Pennsylvania, the *re-publisher* is the *greatest offender*. When Rush wrote his *Account of the Yellow Fever of 1793*, he was, as the saying is, upon his high horse. He had been so flattered by a set of mean parasites, of various professions, that he really began to think there was no other physician in the world worthy of the least attention. Hence he had the audacity to despise, or to affect to despise, the opinion of Dr. Currie, and was thus led to introduce into his own work, and to assist in giving circulation to, the severest sentence that ever was passed on his discovery. He seemed not to recollect, that Dr. Currie was a member of the College of Physicians, and that his opinion might have far more weight than his own. He verified, however (but certainly without intending it), the maxim laid down in his book; for, as if to prove to his readers that for every *evil* Providence had provided a counteracting *good*, he sent out his own *poison* accompanied with the *antidote* of Currie.----- Poor Rush has overshot himself oftner, perhaps, than any other man in existence.

support his practice if possible, he stopped 'till the fever was over, and then, like the famous physician of Validolid he *wrote a book*; that book to which this pamphlet is so largely indebted, and which produced an effect precisely the contrary of the one intended. Men could not be persuaded, even by the smooth tongue of Rush, that bleeding *almost to death*, was likely to save life.

WHEN, therefore, the yellow fever again broke out in 1797, "Hippocrates" and his pupils (who were the only persons that followed the practice) found very little to do. The "saving Angel" recommenced writing in the news-papers, but with somewhat less confidence and more caution than formerly. He did not (except in a few instances) address himself *directly* to his "dear fellow citizens," but published letters, sent to him by his brethren of the lancet practice, giving accounts of the great cures wrought by bleeding and mercurial purges.—Sometimes a letter from Rush to some other of the learned tribe would appear, preceded by a letter requesting information respecting his mode of practice. On these occasions the Discoverer seldom failed to expatiate largely on the virtue of his remedies and on the success of their application, always taking care to throw in a due portion of compliment to the skill of his correspondent, and of tender solicitude for the welfare of his "dear countrymen" and "dear fellow citizens." These systematic endeavours for reviving the practice were carried to such a shameless length, that there sometimes appeared

peared in print letters written to, and answers received from, physicians dwelling in the same city of Philadelphia, men with whom Rush was most intimate, and with whom he conversed, probably, ten times a day. What necessity was there for such men *to write* to each other? What could they write for, but the express purpose of publishing their letters in the papers? And what object could they have in view, in these indirect addresses to the public, but that of extolling their own practice, of advancing their own fame, and encreasing their own profits?

THESE tricks did not, however, pass unperceived. Many gentlemen of Philadelphia (not physicians) expressed to me their dread of the practice, and their indignation at the arts that were made use of to render it prevalent. They thought, and not without reason, that it was lawful, just, and fair to employ a news-paper in decrying what other news-papers had been employed to extol. In fact, I wanted very little persuasion to induce me to endeavour to prevent a revival of that which I had always looked upon as a scourge to the city, in 1793, and which now, I was fully persuaded, menaced the lives of my friends, my neighbours, my workmen, my customers, and, in short, of the people in general amongst whom I dwelt. Every thing seemed to threaten a return of the former consternation and calamity. The chariot*
of

* LEST the English, or any other, reader should attach the

of the mighty "Hippocrates," began again to rattle along the lanes and alleys; the sect of "undisciplined practitioners" were again taking the field; the Revd. Negroes had tucked up the sleeves of their gaberdine, were preparing to draw the lancet and throw away the scabbard. Purge and bleed! purge and bleed! resounded through the half-deserted city, while the responsive howlings of the dogs "gave dreadful note of preparation!"

FRIGID indeed must have been my feelings, or cowardly must have been my heart, if, with a publick print, such as I held in my hand, I had, in a scene like this, remained a silent spectator. Far was it from me to think of a course so dishonourable. I thought I saw approaching all the horrors of 1793, and, both my interest and my duty

the *English* signification to this word, and imagine that Rush really keeps a *chariot*, I must observe, that the thing I allude to is a queer looking hutch, big enough to hold only one man. It has glass doors and windows, it is drawn by one horse, and has an elevated box, from which a negro-fellow lashes his poor four-legged fellow citizen. Just after the 5,000 dollar decision, the Rushites published a triumphal caricature, representing Rush with the above equipage, driving over a Porcupine, and squeezing out of its throat great quantities of *blood* and dollars. A New-Yorker, seeing this picture, unaccompanied with any explanation, mistook it for a representation of the *chariot of death*, driven by the Devil!

duty commanded me to endeavour to avert them.*

FOR writing *medical* essays ; for controverting *scientifically*, the wild positions of Rush and his adherents, I acknowledged myself then, as I do now, totally unqualified. To the charges of ignorance in medicine, brought against me by the great Hippocrates, I might, indeed, have found a triumphant reply in his own book on the Yellow Fever ; I might have produced himself as a witness against himself ; I might have quoted the passages, where he asserts, that the success of the two negroes, in curing the Yellow Fever, was “ unparralleled by what was called “ regular practice ;” that a hundred things are taught in the common schools, less useful, “ and “ many things more difficult, than the knowledge “ that would be necessary to cure a Yellow “ Fever, or the plague ;” and that, “ all the “ knowledge necessary to discover when blood- “ letting is proper, *might be taught to a boy or “ girl of twelve years old, in a few hours !* I “ taught it,” adds he, “ *in less time, to several persons*

* MOSES Levi, one of Rush's lawyers, had the charity to suggest, that I, being a *royalist*, might possibly have hoped, by discrediting the Doctor's practice, to increase the mortality amongst the *republicans* ! Such a diabolical thought never could have been engendered but in the mind of a Jew ! But honest Mosey seemed to have forgotten, that I could not possibly want to kill *myself*. I cannot for my life, however, muster up any thing like anger against a poor devil like Moses ; he did not believe a word that he said ; he vash vorking for de monish, dat vash all.

“ persons, during our late epidemick !”—“ It is
 “ time,” exclaims he in another place, “ to take
 “ the cure of pestilential fevers *out of the hands*
 “ *of physicians*, and to place it *in the hands of*
 “ *the people !*”—I might have shown that he
 very highly applauded the conduct of the Popish
 Priest, who exhorted the *other* physicians “ to
 “ renounce the pride of science, and *adopt*
 “ *the new remedies.*” *—I might, in short, have
 proved most satisfactorily, that, according to
 the written assertions of this impudent innova-
 tor, I was duly and amply qualified to approve
 of, or to condemn, any mode of treating the yel-
 low fever ; and, indeed, had I been fool or knave
 enough to join his troop of Mock-Doctors, I could
 probably have talked very learnedly about “ *bleed-*
 “ *ing as white as Jersey veal,*” about “ *washing*
 “ *the guts,*” and “ *shaking the gall-bladder ;*” nay,
 it is possible, that I could have equalled even the
 Pennsylvanian “ Hippocrates” in that butcher-like
 dialect, which is so admirably calculated to vul-
 garize the medical profession and to brutalize the
 human

* RUSH says, however, that this infatuated quackish
 divine *died* in this same Yellow Fever.—Fielding, in order
 to give us an adequate idea of the extreme confusion ex-
 perience by one of his characters, says it was as great
 “ as that of a quack must be, if in the midst of a declamation on
 “ the great virtues of his powders, the corps of one of his
 “ martyrs should be brought forth, and deposited before
 “ the stage, as a testimony of his skill ;” but, even Fielding
 never supposed a case, wherein the corps of a quack himself
 should be brought forth, in the like way, and for a similar
 purpose !

human frame; but, I felt no inclination to imitate, in any way whatever, the "undisciplined sect of practitioners," and, therefore, while I admitted the sober refutations of those medical gentlemen, who thought Rush worth their notice, I confined myself to squibs, puns, epigrams and quotations from Gil Blas.* In this *petite guerre* I had an excellent auxiliary in Mr. Fenno, jun. or rather, Fenno was the principal and I the auxiliary. Never was a paper war carried on with greater activity and perseverance, or crowned with more complete success. It began about the middle of September, and, before October was nearly ended, the system of depletion was the standing jest of the town. Rush suppressed his mortification for a good while; he seemed to say that it was beneath a great physician, and a member of the *learned* philosophical society of Philadelphia, to be ruffled at what a couple of low news-mongers could say; but, at last, having been coupled, in a ludicrous way, with his dear friend Samuel Coats, a quaker philanthropist, brother Broadbrim and he,

* THE pleaders of Rush asserted, that my attacks were confined to the *man* and not to his *practice*; this, though the Jury affected to believe it, was *notoriously* false. It was *always* the practice and *never* the man, that I assailed. They asserted besides, that I never attempted a refutation of the *errors* of the practice, this was also *notoriously* false; for, if the puns and squibs were to be ascribed to *me*, so were all those excellent medical essays, which appeared in my paper, and for a specimen of which I refer the reader to the article in the present number, entitled: "The Ignorance of the Pennsylvanian Hippocrates exposed."

he, after a *secret attempt* (which I shall mention by and by) had been made to silence our presses,* laid their heads together, and “sent for a sinful man in the flesh, called an Attorney, to prepare a parchment and carry us unto judgment.”†

(To be continued.)

A BITTER PILL FOR THE RUSHITES.

IN the last number of Porcupine's Gazette, I observed that it was somewhat singular (and it really was so), that, on the 14th of December, on the same day, and in the very *same hour*, that a ruinous fine was imposed on me for endeavouring to put a stop to the practice of Rush, General Washington was expiring under the operation of *that very practice*. “While a fowler,” says the fable, “was shooting at a Ring-Dove, an adder stung him in the leg. The poison immediately

* THIS *attempt* should be mentioned here, but, as it forms the first link of the chain of facts, which ends in the famous 5,000 dollar verdict, I shall reserve it for the next Number; requesting the reader, in the mean time, to suspend his curiosity, for that, any thing his imagination can conceive will fall greatly short of what I have to relate.

† THE defence of my publications (a little better one than Mr. Harper made) cannot come into this Number for want of room, certain anecdotes, lately received, respecting Dewees & Co. having made a considerable addition to it.

ly infected his blood, and his whole body began to mortify; which, when he perceived, he could not help owning it to be just. "Fate," says he, "has brought destruction upon me, while I was contriving the death of another."—Whether the Philadelphians look upon the loss of General Washington as a mortal blow to America, and, if they do, whether they will have the candour to make an acknowledgement similar to that of the Fowler, are points that I pretend not to determine. Indeed, I doubt not, that, in order to keep themselves in countenance, they will deny that any other treatment would have saved the General. I dare say they will deny that he was not treated according to the practice of their "Hippocrates." But, whatever the silly Philadelphians may believe, or pretend to believe, on this subject, I beg that other people will observe, and remember it well, that General Washington was not only treated precisely according to the famous *System of Depletion*, but that, *Doctor Dick*, one of the physicians, was a *pupil of Rush*.—Thus much by way of preface to the opinion of one of the most skilful physicians in America, the learned and experienced *Dr. Brickell* of Savannah.

Observations on the medical treatment of General Washington, in his last illness; addresed to his physicians Messrs. Craik & Dick.

The life of this illustrious personage has been so eminently beneficial and ornamental to the world, that every man who has a just value for virtue, talents, or an attachment to civil liberty, must lament his death.

The

The loss to his country, at this critical period, is incalculable; it is irreparable: we shall never look upon his like again!

I have perused the account published by his physicians, of their medical treatment, and differ from them so entirely in my opinion of its propriety, that, with all due respect for their good intentions, I think it my duty to point out what appears to me a most fatal error in their plan: and although it is not in the power of science to restore his precious life, yet a discussion of this case may be productive of benefit to mankind.

I suppose myself addressing men of science, whose minds are so highly cultivated as to comprehend my reasoning on this subject; which I shall make as short and clear as possible.

When we examine the human blood by optical glasses, by chemistry, and by experimental philosophy, we find it full of nourishment in young people; but effete and poor in the aged.

When we examine by anatomical injections, the state of the vesicular system, we find innumerable ramifications in the arteries through which the blood flows freely in young people; while many of their anastomoses are obliterated in the aged.

The blood of old people, therefore, being poorer, and the channels for conveying its nourishment fewer, is the reason that old people cannot bear bleeding so well as the young, and it likewise explains (what every man of science and experience must know) why a small bleeding has the same effect on an aged person, that a large bleeding has upon the young and robust.

These observations, founded on well established facts, demonstrate how guarded and circumspect we ought to be in the use of the lancet, when our patient is far advanced in life: and how actively we ought to employ our thoughts in devising

devising other methods than profuse blood-letting in such a case.

From what the physicians have published and other documents, we have data sufficient to ascertain how far the maxims derivable from science, experience and judgment, have governed in the present instance.

The duration of this illness was 20 hours; from 3, A. M., till after 10, P. M.

A bleeder being sent for at the unusual hour of 3, A. M. we may suppose the operation was not performed until four o'clock; before eleven hours elapsed, he was bled again twice profusely; which must have been about eighteen ounces each time; and soon afterwards he was bled again to the amount of thirty two ounces.

Thus we see, by their own statement, that they drew from a man in the sixty ninth year of his age, the enormous quantity of eighty two ounces, or above two quarts and an half of blood in about thirteen hours.

Very few of the most robust youngmen in the world could survive such a loss of blood; but the body of an aged person must be so exhausted, and all his powers so weakened by it as to make his death speedy and inevitable.

Here the effect followed the cause precisely: the physicians soon observed the powers of life yielding; a loss of speech; and that he expired without a struggle! The excessive bleeding *bad left him no strength to struggle!!*

After what has been said it may be expected that I should point out my plan:---I will speak generally, without descending to criticise on the minor parts of the treatment, which, however, I do not admire.

They ought to have attacked the disease as near its seat as possible: the vein under the tongue might have been opened; the tonsils might have been scarified; the scarificator and cup might have been applied on or near the thyroid

thyroid cartilage. One ounce of blood drawn in this way would relieve more than a quart drawn from the arm, and would not exhaust and enfeeble the body; in the same manner that an ounce of blood drawn at the temple, relieves an enflamed eye more than a quart drawn from the arm.

The neck might have been rubbed with warm laudanum and camphor; and a bag of warm fine salt laid on; but the unseasonable application of a blister would prevent this.

He ought to have been put into one, two, or three flannels; and instead of calomel, it would have been better to give him small draughts of hot whey, with a little laudanum, camphor, spirituous volatilis aromaticus, or spiritus nitri dulcis, occasionally, to remove the spasm which caused the dyspnea, and produce perspiration, which would relieve the lungs by turning the course of the fluids towards the skin.

JOHN BRICKELL.

Savannah, 23d Jan. 1800.

A NOTE TO DOCTOR DICK.

Doctor,

I HAVE lately seen an account of the delivery of an Eulogium on General Washington, at Alexandria; and I could not help applauding the discernment of those, who chose *you* for the Eulogist; no man could be so fit to describe the life, as he who had so ably described the death, of that great man. The art of making Eulogiums, as well as that of producing subjects for them, you learnt, I suppose, from your preceptor, the Pennsylvanian "Hippocrates?" But, were
you

you not humming us, Doctor, when you endeavoured to persuade us, that *fate* had some hand in the *fatal* work at Mount Vernon? You say, in your report, that the General was "*fully impressed at the beginning of his complaint as well as through every succeeding stage of it, that its conclusion would be mortal*"; submitting to the several exertions made for his recovery rather as a duty, than from any expectation of their efficacy. "*He considered the operation of death upon his system as coeval with the disease*"; and several hours before his decease, after repeated efforts to be understood, succeeded in expressing a desire, "that he might be permitted to die without interruption."—Would not this have sounded better from the mouth of a believer in the second sight, than from a disciple of "*Hippocrates*?"—Pray, Sir, read the letter of Dr Brickell, and I believe you will suspect that poor *Fate* had much less to do in the business than *you and your colleagues*.

P. PORCUPINE.

P. S. Don't you think it would be a good thing, Doctor, if the names and places of abode of all *Rush's pupils* were published? If you don't, I do; and I hereby request those who are possessed of information on the subject to communicate it to me, *post paid*.

THE

THE IGNORANCE OF THE PENNSYLVANIAN
HIPPOCRATES EXPOSED.

IN the former part of this number of the Rush-Light, where mention is made of the opinion of Rush, respecting the cause of the *spontaneous hæmorrhage*, the reader will find himself referred to the present article.

RUSH says, in his account of the Yellow Fever of 1793, page 275, "As a proof that I *did not draw one ounce of blood too much*, it will only be necessary to add, that hæmorrhages *frequently occurred after a third, a fourth, and, in one instance, after a sixth bleeding had been used.*"—During the yellow fever of 1797, and just about the time, that the 5,000 dollar action was commenced against me, an underling of Rush, named Caldwell, published a letter to me, wherein he repeats the opinion of his preceptor, and uses the same argument in favour of copious bleeding. To this publication a Scotch physician, who was travelling through the United States, and who happened to be then at Philadelphia, made the following reply, by which the reader will be fully convinced, that the spontaneous hæmorrhage, in place of being *prevented*, is *produced*, by copious bleeding, and that Rush's proof of the *efficacy* of his remedy is, on the contrary, a proof of its *mortal effects*.

M

TO

TO THE EDITOR OF PORCUPINE'S GAZETTE.

SIR,

In the list of misfortunes brought upon the city of Philadelphia by the prevailing epidemic, must be included, the degradation of its medical character. Previous to the appearance of this formidable disease, the Physicians of Philadelphia were esteemed the most eminent on the continent of America, they have since sunk from that state of exaltation to a condition bordering on contempt, in consequence of the rash practice and absurd publications of some of their body, and the injudicious silence of others. I do not mean to say, that every silly paper should have received a regular answer: Arguments evidently contemptible refute themselves. But it sometimes happens, that arguments sufficiently specious to impose upon readers of sound understanding, who are unacquainted with the nature of the animal œconomy, are brought forward for the purpose of supporting a very dangerous practice. In such a case it is the duty of professional men, who are better informed, to expose the fallacy of such reasoning, that the dangerous tendency of the doctrines attempted to be established by it, may be distinctly perceived.

These observations are meant to apply particularly to an argument which has been triumphantly employed by the Phlebotomists, both in writing and conversation, and very ostentatiously displayed by Doctor Caldwell, in his letter addressed to you, dated the 10th of October.

It is confidently asserted, that the spontaneous hæmorrhages, which frequently occur in malignant fevers, are solely occasioned by the omission of copious blood-letting; and as these excessive hæmorrhages appear in many cases to be the immediate cause of the death of the patient. We are told this fatal termination would have been prevented, if blood had been freely drawn at any preceding period of the disease.

This reasoning is so specious, that, in the minds of all those readers who are unacquainted with the anatomy and pathology

logy of the human blood, it must be decisive. They will be fully convinced that large and repeated bleedings must be the most effectual method of cure, in diseases where the blood is so superabundant as to burst spontaneously from the vessels: and the shafts of your ridicule will be directed in vain against a practice, apparently founded upon so firm a basis.

To detect the fallacy of this reasoning, it will be necessary critically to examine the facts upon which it is founded, and then to make a few observations upon the conclusions that have been drawn by the Phlebotomists, from those facts, in support of a practice replete with danger.

If those who employ this reasoning mean that, provided the vessels be completely drained of their blood, there will be no risk of spontaneous hæmorrhage, we admit the truth of the observation. For Conjurors tell us, where nothing is, nothing can come out; and it hardly requires a man to be a conjuror to give us that information. But if they mean to say such a quantity of blood, as may be drawn without producing a dangerous degree of debility in the patient, being taken away in the early part of the disease, or at any time preceding the spontaneous hæmorrhage, will prevent that hæmorrhage from taking place, it follows, that it is caused by the vascular system being overloaded, insomuch that the increased action of the vessels bursts a passage for the superabundant blood, and nature does too late what ought to have been earlier performed by the doctor. Hence it follows, that spontaneous hæmorrhages, in malignant diseases, must be most likely to occur when the vessels are fullest, and the vascular action most violent.

But is this really the case? Does spontaneous hæmorrhage most frequently occur at the commencement of malignant diseases, when the vessels are fullest, and the action most violent; or at their close, when the vessels are comparatively empty, and the vigour of the system exhausted?

Let us enquire what happens in a very formidable disease the Causus of Hippocrates, better known at Philadelphia, by a much dreaded name, the yellow fever of the West-Indies.

dies. This complaint commences with a febrile state of excessive ardor and violence, which continues generally from sixty to eighty hours, when the symptoms of violent action rather suddenly cease, and extreme debility marks the remainder of the disease.

I will ask Doctor Caldwell, and those who think as he does, whether, agreeably to their system, spontaneous hæmorrhages ought not more frequently to occur at the commencement, during the ardent state of this disease, when the vessels are fullest, than during the quiescent state, when the vigour of the system is exhausted, and the mere abstraction of food and waste by natural evacuations (supposing artificial ones to have been refrained from,) must have reduced the vessels to a state of comparative emptiness? As men of candour, they must answer in the affirmative.

I will then ask them whether spontaneous hæmorrhage really happens, oftner in the commencement than the close of the yellow fever? As men of veracity, they must, answer in the negative: nay, as men solicitous for the detection of error and the establishment of truth, they will go farther in their answer than is required by my question. They will admit, that, in every case of yellow fever, they have seen, heard or read of, in which this symptom has occurred, it has never appeared but in the last stage, or quiescent state. We must therefore cease to look for its explanation in the superabundance of blood, and fix our attention upon what appears to be its proximate cause, the extreme debility which prevails at the time of its occurrence.

That excessive weakness alone is sufficient to account for spontaneous hæmorrhage, will be completely proved by observing the frequency of its occurrence in a disease of pure debility, where there is no febrile action, and where, from the situation of those subject to the disorder at and preceding the commencement of it, there can be no reason to suspect fullness of the vascular system.---I allude to the scurvy. This complaint afflicts not only seamen in long voyages, who are obliged to subsist on aliment, the nutritive quality of which has been diminished by time and the mode of preservation, but it also aggravates the miseries of winter to the poorer inhabitants of northern climates.

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Among the symptoms of this shocking disease, none are so formidable as spontaneous hæmorrhages: they are apt to occur upon the slightest motion: sometimes the bleeding is external, sometimes internal, and frequently fatal. So slowly does death advance, from any other cause, in this disease, that should the wretched patient be so fortunate as to escape hæmorrhage, he may linger out a miserable existence, till the conclusion of the voyage, or the approach of summer enables him to procure sustenance more nutritious; and the danger of spontaneous hæmorrhage is removed by his returning strength, though accompanied by increased fullness of the blood vessels.

The blood does not escape, in these diseases, in consequence of violent action in the moving powers, or from any distension of the vascular system by the quantity contained, but from inability in the extreme vessels to resist the slightest impulse.

As I have shown the cause of the symptom, on which the strong argument of the phlebotomists is founded, to have been misunderstood, it can hardly be necessary to say the conclusion they have drawn must be erroneous.—Dr. Caldwell says, “In the occurrence of this spontaneous hæmorrhage nature undoubtedly gives an obvious hint which all physicians should have discernment and sagacity sufficient to improve. She would seem to tell them in the language of facts, that if they either through ignorance or inattention neglect, the evacuation of blood—letting entirely, or use the lancet in a manner not sufficiently bold, she must and will by means of this discharge make a final effort for the safety of the patient herself: It is however to be greatly lamented that she makes this effort in vain.” Adopting the idea of Dr. Caldwell, that nature is the physician’s kind directress, her hint may be explained more consistently with facts, by saying she intends by her conduct to caution the physician against bleeding in this disease, particularly at a late period, by shewing that it is always prejudicial, often fatal. But this idea of a *Vis Medicatrix Naturæ*, a power existing in the animal body capable of reflecting upon the nature of diseases and adopting the most rational method of cure, in which she kindly instructs attentive physicians, is too ridiculous for serious argument, and can only be

be intended *ad captandum vulgus*. Sound philosophy rejects with contempt such visionary notions.

Before I conclude this paper, Mr. Editor, it may be necessary (to prevent mistakes respecting the author) to say a little of what I am, and something of what I am not. I am a stranger, unacquainted with the Physicians of Philadelphia, and no ways interested in the success of parties or individuals. I am not a Phlebotomist of the school of Sangrado, nor am I an anti-phlebotomist: for though I think it improper to bleed my patients in Yellow Fever without measure and without mercy, yet I have met with many cases in which, from the constitution of the patient and degree of the fever, I have thought it right to draw blood in moderation at an early stage. I must therefore be considered an impartial observer, whatever may be thought of the soundness of my opinions; and if my sentiments appear to be inimical to the practice of the Phlebotomists, it cannot fairly be imputed to personal prejudice or partiality towards any of the individuals of either party, but must be attributed to a full conviction, in my own mind, that the extreme to which the Phlebotomists recommend their favorite remedy to be employed, is dangerous to their patients and discreditable to themselves.

Z.

THE LOAVES AND FISHES.

LETTER DEDICATORY.

*To his Excellency Thomas Mack Kean, Esqr.
Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania,
Doctor of Laws, &c. &c. &c.*

Dear Doctor,

Though I thought it prudent to remove to New-York, before you began to purge the State, which is now become your patient, I have
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not been an unconcerned spectator of your operations: having left under your power many friends whom I loved most sincerely, it was as natural for me to turn now-and-then towards Pennsylvania, as it was for the affectionate Orpheus to look back towards hell. I have seen, in your conduct, many things to censure, and many to applaud. Of the former, because I know it would be disagreeable to you, I shall, at present, say nothing; and of the latter, want of time will prevent my saying much. I cannot, however, delay, even for a moment, to congratulate you on your *removals* and *appointments*, which, whether we consider them as to the *persons*, the *number*, the *time*, or the *mode*, reflect great credit on your discernment and your prudence. Your appointment of Shippen to the post of Chief Justice; the *time* of that appointment, and your retaining his son-in-law Burd in a lucrative office *held at your pleasure*, are so many proofs of your deep penetration, and they clearly evince, that, though you cannot be, at one and the same time, Governor and Chief Judge, you are not entirely unmindful of what may come to pass in the administration of Justice!—Your enemies do, indeed, accuse you of having driven from office a great many fine old revolutionary Whigs, who were serving in the field while you were living snugly in Philadelphia; but, these people do not, as you say, seem to recollect, that, if you did not use a sword or a musket, you *were far from being idle*; they do not consider, that, while they were, probably, only driving off or kill-
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the cattle of Tories, you were laying the iron hands of the law on the estates and the lives of the Tories themselves! For *these services* you were applauded by the very men, who *now* accuse you of *oppression*, because you have turned them out of place! When any one of them shall, in future, complain of your injustice, and shall dispute your pretensions on the score of revolutionary services, step from your chair of state, and thunder in his ear, with a voice as loud and terrifick as the last trumpet, "remember ROBERTS and CARLISLE!!!"

BUT, your enemies, not content with the censure abovementioned, have drawn an invidious comparison between your conduct and that of your "*patriotick predecessor*," as they are pleased to call him. Mifflin might be *patriotick* enough, for aught I know; but people seem to have forgotten, that he had his friends to serve, and that he served them too, as will appear from the following paper. You have, I believe, Doctor Mack Kean, frequently blamed *me* for handling the character of Mifflin so roughly; you called it *slander*; what, then, will you think of the article I am now going to lay before you? This article is of republican origin; it was handed me for publication (though I never published it) by Tom Bradford, who, to the best of my recollection, told me it was written by one of the *Rushes*. This article will be valuable to you on many accounts, but particularly as a proof of your only having trodden in the steps of your predecessor with respect to removals
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from office; it will be valuable to the people of Pennsylvania, as a proof of the super-excellence of republican Chiefs and republican governments; and it will serve to reconcile the malcontents to your measures, by convincing them, that, from the "glorious 1776" to this day, from the quarrel between *you* and *Old Hopkinson*, about a post in His Majesty's Custom-house, to the present squabbles amongst the county Clerks, and Records, the great object of patriotick contention ever has been, **THE LOAVES AND FISHES.**

" Reasons why the people of Pennsylvania ought not to re-elect Thomas Mifflin to the office of Governor.

1st Reason.—His Excellency is openly abandoned to *lewdness and debauchery.*

2d. He is addicted to the low and illiberal vice of *swearing*; and upon a very noted occasion, outraged the feelings of decency and religion, by publicly profaning the name of the deity, in the most shocking manner.

3d. His public conversation at his own table, surrounded by company, is frequently so *vulgar, obscene and scandalous*, as to exceed description and almost belief.

4th. He makes a practice of breaking the *sabbath*, by giving entertainments upon that day, at the Falls of Schuylkill, and permitting fishermen to ply with their nets, in the river, directly in his view, contrary to the laws of God and man, and to the great injury of the morals of the people.

5th. He insults the religion and laws of his country
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by his intire neglect of the public worship of the deity, and by his example induces others to do so.

6th. During his administration of near five years, two as President of the State, and almost three as Governor, he hath never instituted a day of thanksgiving for the innumerable blessings bestowed by the bounty of heaven, nor a day of fasting on account of the sins of the people, and the alarming growth of luxury, infidelity and vice of every kind.

N. B. This has been usually done by all good Governors, as by the late Governor Patterson, of New Jersey, and others.

7th. He has in repeated instances broke his word, and violated the most solemn *promises and engagements*. — *The following facts are sufficient to shew that this seventh reason is well founded.*

1st. He actually *swore* or solemnly *declared*, he would never commission Mr. Daniel Montgomery, of Northumberland, a Justice of the Peace, notwithstanding this, a few weeks ago, he sent him a commission to act in that capacity.

2d. In like manner he *swore*, or solemnly *declared*, he would not commission Mr. Matthias Richards, of Bucks county, but he has since made him a Justice of the Peace.

3d. Upon application to the Governor by John Hoge, Esq. of Washington county, (now a member of the Senate) to request he would not supercede Mr. Scott, the Prothonotary of that county, he informed Mr. Hoge, he would consider the matter; when at the very time of his saying so, he knew that he had signed a commission for Mr. Reddick, as the successor of Mr. Scott, and that this commission had been sent forward a few days before.

4th. *Previous* to his being elected Governor, he frequently declared he would not displace any person, without specific charges and proof against him, and soon *after* his election, upon application to supercede James Hanna, Esq. the Register of Wills for Bucks county, he not only refused but expressed a fixed resolution of not turning any person out of office, unless charges were made and properly supported. Notwithstanding these declarations and solemn engagements, he did soon after his election remove from their offices, the following persons, viz. *Mr. Scott, Charles Biddle, Esquire, Judge Atlee, Judge Rush, Caleb Davis, Esq.* the Prothonotary of Chester county, *John Chrest, Esq.* the Register and Recorder of Berks county, and *James Jecks, Esq.* the Register of Lancaster county; against any of whom it is believed not a single charge was ever made, or proof given in support of it. Certain it is, they were never heard in their defence, nor had an opportunity of refuting the charges, if any were really made, after such public and notorious professions were repeatedly made, the news of their being displaced, must have astonished them, like a violent clap of thunder when not a cloud could be seen.

N. B. There is reason to assert that at the very time of his making the above declaration respecting James Hanna, Esq. he had gone so far as to give *assurances* to several persons that he would displace both Judge Atlee and Judge Rush.

5th. He solemnly promised Collenson Read, Esq. of Reading, that if a vacancy should happen in the County of Berks, he would appoint his *Father*; a respectable old Gentleman who had once held the office of Prothonotary in that county, and has relinquished it, only to serve his country in a more important station—I say, he not only made the promise abovementioned, but upon Mr. Read's observing, that it would be proper for his Father (who then lived in that city) to remove to Berks County, that

that he might qualify himself to hold an office by a year's residence; he replied there was no necessity for it; he would appoint him without his residing a year in the county—Notwithstanding all this, upon the *death* of the late *Prothonotary*, he refused to appoint *Mr. Read's Father*, and assigned as the reason his *not having resided* a year in the county. Other instances under this 7th general reason can be brought forward—but let these suffice.

8th. He commissioned *David Harris, Esq.* one of the associate Judges of Dauphine county, tho' he had not been "a citizen and inhabitant of the county *one* year before his appointment," which he knew was required by the *constitution* he hath sworn to execute.

9th. He kept *Jacob Bower* and *John Chrest, Esq.* of Berks county, dancing attendance upon him in this city, about two weeks, giving to each of them alternate expectation and assurance, that he should have the office of *Register* and *Recorder* of Berks; and finally told them they must go together and settle the matter themselves. This irresolution, and these expressions, produced a sale of the office, from *Mr. Chrest* the former owner, to *Mr. Bower* the present possessor, for the sum of 200l. payable in four years at 50l. a year.

10th. So much intoxicated was he by success of his Election, and so eager to display his power, that he forgot all regard to public decency, and to the memory of the late *Judge Bryan*, by nominating (tho' not actually commissionating) a successor in the office, not only before the body was interred, but immediately after his *death* was announced by *Doctor Hutcheson*.

Such indecency in transacting Public Business, such disrespectful treatment of the *remains* of an old and faithful servant of his Country, would be only aggravated by

11th. The character of the person who was thus hastily appointed in his stead, viz. *Judge Shippen*. This gentleman, disaffected to his country during the late struggle for Liberty, had remained in this city with the British army, is the father-in-law of *General Arnold*, and paid his respects to *General Howe* to congratulate him on his arrival in this city.

The cause of Freedom and virtue had surely been enough insulted, when he was made President of the Court of Common Pleas of the city and county of Philadelphia. But our Governor thought otherwise; and therefore raised him to the highest seat of judicial authority in the state.

12th. He hath not only promoted the disaffected, but in the instance of *Judge Rush*, he displaced a staunch friend and supporter of the *Revolution*, to make way for a character of a very different description, viz. *Mr. Yates* of Lancaster. There is nothing like this to be found in the conduct of the President of the United States. It is one thing to bring forward persons unfriendly to the principles of the *Revolution*; and quite a different thing, to dismiss the well affected, to make way for them. *General Washington* never removed a whig from office, and advanced a tory in his room. It is therefore ridiculous to compare the conduct of the Governor of this state, with that of the President. Happy would it be for Pennsylvania, if their characters were more alike. Darkness and Light are not more at variance.

13th Reason.—In an *arbitrary* and *tyrannical* manner he superceded Judges *Atlee* and *Rush* as Judges of the supreme court, and still more cruelly and tyrannically compelled them into inferior stations; making thereby a wanton and merciless attack upon their feelings, their reputation, and their fortunes. In the histories even of Russia and Turkey, it would be impracticable to find an instance of power exerted in a manner so perfectly savage

vage and despotic, accompanied at the same time with circumstances of such peculiar *treachery*. See this perfidy in the 5th reason under the 7th general head.—He who commits a single deliberate act of *tyranny*, is as completely a *tyrant* as the *man* who commits a single deliberate act of *stealing*, is a *thief*. It is the disposition that is seen in both cases.

14th Reason.—The wrathful and vindictive passions of the *man*, influence his conduct as a *public officer*. Under this head I shall mention two or three facts that are well known to be true.

1. Soon after his election, a recommendation in behalf of *Joseph Magoffin, Esq.* as a justice of the peace in the Southern Liberties, being presented to him, he instantly declared with the utmost *violence of language*, he never would appoint him; *for he had opposed him at his election*. N. B. We have never yet heard of the *Governor's* breaking *this promise*; probably because the offence of exercising the *right* vested in *Mr. Magoffin* by the constitution, of voting for and supporting his antagonist is an unpardonable one in his opinion.

2. *Dr. John Otto*, of Reading, was a justice of the peace *previous* to the *election* of the *Governor*, and very highly esteemed for the spirited execution of his office. It so happened, some years ago, that a collector of taxes lodged a list of delinquents in the hands of the Doctor to be collected agreeably to law. In this list was the name of *Thomas Mifflin, Esq.* who was accordingly notified of it by a polite message from the justice, and upon whom he waited soon after, with every appearance of being much *disturbed* and *agitated*.

Doctor Otto was never commissioned as a justice of the peace, *after* the *election* of the present *Governor*.

3. *Mr. Scott* of Washington having made use of some expressions that were supposed to be offensive, the power

of the *Governor* was employed as the means to execute the last resentment of the private individual.

The Judge who from the bench pronounces an unjust judgment, and perverts the law to gratify the malice of his heart, violates his duty and oath. Nor can that Governor be deemed guilty of a less crime, who, availing himself of the power his station gives him, wickedly prostitutes it to the ruin of a worthy officer, for no other reason, than because the officer may have affronted him, or injured his feelings as a man.

15th. The appointment of a person, who signs his name *A. J. Dallas*, to the important post of secretary of the commonwealth; the indecency of which is too glaring to need comment, especially as his behaviour has always justified any sentiment originally entertained respecting the measure. That there were other persons equally qualified for this office nobody can doubt: but it was naturally supposed, with manners more congenial, an exotic secretary would be more devoted. Accordingly we now see him desperately engaged under the signature of *Atticus* in an attempt to defend what no other person in his senses can possibly think defensible. Were it not that *this Man* is secretary, I flatter myself there would not be found one solitary writer in Pennsylvania abandoned enough to take up his pen, to vindicate the still more abandoned character and conduct of its present chief magistrate."

HERE ended the paper; but, to all these reasons, why Mifflin ought not to be re-elected Governor, Bradford might himself have added one, and a very weighty one too; to wit: *because his brother wanted the post!*—Loaves and Fishes again!

WE see, too, that the displacing of *Rush's brother*, the Judge, forms the principal article of accusation

accusation against Mifflin. If Judge Rush had been promoted to the bench of the Supreme Court, if Tom Bradford had not been deprived of a lucrative branch of printing business by the Governor, and if, at the same time, William Bradford (brother of Tom and a relation of Rush) had not felt a call to supply the place of Mifflin, this poor fellow would have been a "saving angel," instead of a devil incarnate.

THOSE who have been constant readers of my writings, will recollect that I never inserted the above republican communication, either in my pamphlets or my paper. As to the *facts* against Mifflin, I shall leave them, as I did those advanced by the *grateful* Mease, entirely without comment. Whether they were well-founded, or not; the *motives* from which, in both instances, they were communicated to me, were such as prevented my making use of them, though frequently urged to do it. Tom Bradford owed great obligations to both Mifflin and Dallas, and much as I disliked these men, my mind revolted at the idea of becoming the cat's-paw of his mean underhand revenge.

AFTER Bradford had settled with me for the *one shilling and seven pence half-penny*, the neat proceeds of one of my pamphlets, he sent his son Saml. the present Editor of the paper called the "*True American*," to wheedle me out of the above communication; but, whatever other faults I may have, that of *letting-go my hold* is not one. I told the "*True American*," that it would be of

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no use to his father, that more of the same grist might easily be gotten at the same mill, and that this little sample might serve me, should a surfeit of lierty send me back to the "insular Bastile," as a triumphant proof of the excellence of republican governments and republican morals. Thus, I should, probably, never have used it otherwise than to amuse my children, when, in my old age I should have been describing to them the storm I encountered while they were in the cradle; but, as the Philadelphians have charged *me* with calumniating their great men, as they have laid on me the monstrous, the ruinous fine of 5,000 dollars, and as this very "*True American*" Bradford has published their charge against me, and even *justified their verdict*; as this is the case, I trust I shall be excused for troubling the world with what would, otherwise, have been confined to my own chimney-corner.

A HINT TO SAMUEL COATS,

COATS, you are one of my bitterest persecutors; you were one of the advisers of the prosecution against me; you shook me by the hand and smiled in my face at Bustleton, while you were daily back-biting me at Abingdon. Your Nephew was one of the 5,000 dollar jury; you applaud the attempt to ruin me, and the reason you give is, that I am a *calumniator*, and that it is time to put a stop to calumny.—Now Coats, hear
O me,

me.—I will show, in another Number of this work, what *Saint Coats*, can do in the *calumniating way*; and, if you will take my advice, you will, in the mean time, prepare yourself a lodging in the famous mansion, of which you are the manager. *

THE PHILADELPHIAN HORNET'S NEST.

My first Taper gave light into the nest, and, when the last advices came away, the *Hornets* were pouring out upon the spectators. The Sovereign people of Philadelphia (whom, by the by, I begin to forgive) have it seems, had rare sport. They have found the Rush-light as productive of strange sights as a magic-lantern, and, have, of course, run after it in crowds.

VERY different, however, have been the speculations of the Rushites: they have been plotting vengeance, and, as it generally happens to them, they have failed.

ON Friday last one of them published, in the paper

* To obviate any misconstruction of the expressions I may make use of in speaking of this Quaker, I now declare, once for all, that I highly respect the Quakers *in general*. I believe that this sect has, in Pennsylvania, a greater proportion of truly honest and benevolent men than any other sect, and I know, that, though it contains some most malicious hypocrites, it also contains some of the kindest and most sincere of human beings.

paper of these two base wretches *Brown and Relf*, the following most infamous libel against me.

"COMMUNICATION.

"Mr. Cobbett has asserted, both in his farewell Gazette and in a late advertisement, that all his property in this city has been taken in execution and sacrificed at public Vendue, at the suit of Dr. Rush: *this is not so*; not an article belonging to him has been sold at this suit---but it is a fact, notwithstanding his many boasts of punctuality in the discharge of his debts, that *all his goods found in this city were seized by the executors of his landlord for house rent disgracefully left unpaid by him*, and it is also a fact, that the whole amount of the sales arising therefrom, has not been sufficient to satisfy that claim."

"Any one questioning the truth of this statement, is referred to the Sheriff's Office, where it will be seen, that all the monies raised by execution, does not exceed the sum of *three hundred and thirty dollars*."

THE reader will remember, perhaps, that I stated in my last news-paper, that they had seized, belonging to me, and sold for *about four hundred* dollars what should have brought, at least about a thousand. He will now please to read a statement made to the above communication, by Mr. John Morgan, of Philadelphia; and, when he has read it, let him say if the hottest hell be not too cool for the author and publishers of the article to which it is a reply.

"MESS. BROWN & RELF,

"You will please to insert the following statement of facts in answer to a *communication*, which appeared in your paper of Friday last, and oblige

"Your humble servant,

Monday Evening, March 3.

"JOHN MORGAN.

WREN

WHEN Mr. Cobbett was about leaving this city for New-York, I undertook to receive the monies which were to be collected for him by Mr. Douglas: and to sell at public auction some goods that were left at his house. On or about December the 14th, the articles were advertised for sale by Mr. Connolly the auctioneer. The morning intended for the sale, Douglas attended, and having placed some of the goods before the door, was waiting for the auctioneer, when the under sheriff made his appearance, and seized the goods, by virtue of an execution, *for the benefit of Doctor Benjamin Rusb.* While the officers were taking an inventory of them I was sent for; as soon as I saw what was going forward, I thought proper to wait on Messrs. Elmslie and Bacon, Executors of the Estate of John Oldden, deceased, and *requested them to attach the goods*, as they had an undoubted right as a security in part for the rent that was due. *This they declined doing, unless I would write to Mr. Cobbett, and inform him that they did it at my particular request.* I consented to write as they desired, when they brought a constable and took an inventory of what was on the premises. What arrangement took place between them and the Sheriff I am not clear in; but it is certain that the goods were afterwards sold by the Sheriff, *by virtue of Rusb's Execution*, although the proceeds were paid to the executors, after deducting the costs of suit, the commission, and other incidental expences; which would have been improper, had they not been sold by virtue of the above said Execution.

When Mr. Elmslie waited on the Sheriff for the proceeds of the sales, the latter refused to pay for more than the arrears of three months, although there was more than five months rent due, until he had taken the advice of Mr. Lewis, *attorney for Dr. Rusb.* The attorney advised to pay the balance of the proceeds after deducting the costs of execution, &c. The monies which Mr. Elmslie received were first two hundred and fifty dollars; then sixty four dollars: those two sums added to costs of suit, commission, advertising, and other incidental expences, *amount to the sum Mr. Cobbett mentioned in his advertisement as the total of the sales.*

By this brief statement the candid reader will see that the goods were sold *by virtue of Rusb's execution*; that the Executors

utors of John Oldden *declined having any thing to do with the business, until I had satisfied them that any censure which might arise from it should attach to me ; and that they were not uneasy about the payment of the rent.*

JOHN MORGAN.

This statement, which is as clear as the head and as true as the heart of the man who signs it, leaves me very little to say as to the falshood or the malice of my enemies. I must, however, observe, for the information of those, who may not have seen my farewell Gazette, that, when I came from Philadelphia, I left about 2,500 dollars to collect ; and about 800 dollars to pay ; that my house-rent, which would have been paid long enough before if we could have ascertained the day of giving up the house, was to be paid the moment that day arrived. Before it did arrive, however, Rush obtained his famous judgment, and made a seizure, as Mr. Morgan has related. That Mr. Elmslie was under no apprehensions the reader will clearly perceive ; for, *after* he had heard of the ruinous 5,000 dollar verdict, *after* he knew that the judgment against me as sent onto New-York, nay, *after* he saw the sheriff in the house, such was his confidence in my honesty ; and such was his delicacy towards me, that he would not even *then* have exercised the right of a landlord, had he not been pressed to do it *for my sake*. Not only did he require to be solicited, by Mr. Morgan, to put in his prior claim, but he, at last, consented to do it, only upon condition that Mr. Morgan would write to me, and *inform me that he (Elmslie) did it at Mr. Morgan's particular*

particular request. Would Mr. Elmslie have had these scruples if he had suspected my honesty? Would he have been thus delicate, thus fearful of hurting my feelings, if I had left my "house rent **DISGRACEFULLY** unpaid?"

BUT, says the reader, who is the infamous slanderer? Tell me who he is, that I may hate him!—And, can you be at a loss to know him? After what you have read in these two numbers, can you imagine that such base revenge could ever be conceived by any one but a RUSH?—It was *Richard Rush*, the self same *lawyer*, who, in order to support the honour of his profession and his dram-shop family, came on express to New-York with the 5,000 dollar judgment; it was one of the "nice-feeling generous sons" of the "most *unoffending* and most *benevolent*" Doctor Rush.

THE malignant slanderers were astonished when they saw Mr. Morgan's statement. They thought that Mr. Elmslie, seeing the vile work that was going forward, had, like a prudent man, stepped in and laid claim to my goods. Sure, in their own minds, that this was the case, they thought that the falshood they had hatched could never be completely refuted. Little did they imagine, that Mr. Elmslie had made the seizure at my agent's request, and *to oblige me*; when, therefore they saw this, they were alarmed, they were confounded, and blasted. Ever as mean as malicious, they now retracted, and the poor cat's-
paw

paw Richard Rush, went to my friend Morgan and read a recantation, which he published in Brown and Relf's paper of the next evening, and which I would here insert, were it not beneath me to offer, in defence of my character, any thing from the vile hand of a *Rush*.

THUS, you see reader, that my enemies have fallen into their own pit, and that, at every struggle, they plunge themselves deeper and deeper in disgrace.—When I saw my friend Morgan's defence of my reputation, and particularly when the next news-paper brought me the proofs of his triumph, I could not help exulting, in the words of King David:—“ Let them be ashamed and brought to confusion together that rejoice at mine hurt; and let them shout for joy, and be glad, that favour my righteous cause !”

POST SCRIPT.

RUSH's lawyers told the philanthropick jury, that, if they assessed but moderate damages, the decision would tend to discourage men from appealing to the law again, and that the city would be *disturbed and disgraced by quarrels and fighting*; but, that, if they made me “ *a blighted picture of ruin*,” they would *prevent personal violence*. The philanthropick jury listened to the advice, and certainly did their best to make me “ *a blighted picture of ruin* ;” but their verdict, so far

far from having had a tendency to promote peace and good neighbourhood, has set all Philadelphia in an uproar. The first Number of the Rush-Light has produced several quarrels, two assaults, and two or three fresh prosecutions!—"That's true," says the philanthropick jury, "but it is your Rush-Light, Peter, and not our verdict, that has made the mischief.—It is not *our* fault that you write."—No, ye precious dozen, it assuredly is not! It is not your fault that I am not in jail, and that my wife and children are not begging their bread from door to door! No, no, it is not your fault that I have either the spirit or the means to write and to publish; but it is your fault that I have the blood-stirring *subject* to write upon.—Thus much by way of hint to you. *

* I INTEND to accompany the Number in which I close the account of the prosecution, with lists of this philanthropick Jury, printed on large cards, that they may be nailed up over chimney pieces, and in other conspicuous places. But, lest he who reads this Number should never read another, I shall just insert the names here, to wit:—

John Paxton, hardwareman, No. 10 south 3d street. Wm. Jolly, ironmonger, No. 11 Arch street; Joseph S. Lewis (nephew of Saml. Coats), merchant, No. 25 Dock street. Isaac Austin, watchmaker, No. 7 Arch street. Thos. W. Armat, shopkeeper, No. 21 North 2d street. George Thompson, shopkeeper, 129 North 3d street. Jacob Sperry, Junr. looking-glass-man, No. 195 market street. John Taggart, merchant, No. 5 and 11 North Water street. William Roberts, house carpenter, No. 136 Chesnut street. Archibald Bingham, shopkeeper, No. 32 North 2d street. Jacob Rees, shopkeeper, No. 151 North 3d street. Benjamin F. Garrigues, Grocer, No. 118 South 2d street.

TO JAMES M'HENRY, ESQR. SECY. AT WAR,

SIR,

ON Saturday, the 8th inst. a man, calling himself *Capt. Still*, belonging to the Artillery, stationed at Fort Jay, came to my house, to call me to account, on the part of Lieut. Rush, about a passage in the first number of the *Rush-Light*. He was armed "*à la mode de Rush*," to wit: with a *bludgeon cane*, which, as it had an *iron poker* to encounter, remained quiet in his hand; and so the noble Captain marched off without beat of drum.—I do not address this to you, Sir, by way of *complaint*; for, I am prepared for *defence* against unlawful violence of any and of every sort. But, Sir, notwithstanding all the ingratitude and injustice I have met with, I am still a friend to America; I still feel a sincere attachment to the Federal government, and, it is from my anxious desire to see the measures of that government prevented from becoming odious in the eyes of all descriptions of people, that I take the liberty to give you the above information.—Be assured, Sir, that men will not long be content to pay taxes for the support of bullies to come and interfere with their business, insult them in their houses, and terrify their wives and their children.

FAR be it from me to insinuate, that conduct, in the military, such as I have described, ever was approved of by the Government, and I feel a confidence, Sir, that, for the honour of the Army itself, it will, in the present instance, meet with marked disapprobation.

I am, Sir, with the greatest respect,

Your most humble and obedt. Svt.

N. York, March 10, 1800,

W. Cobbett

THE two first Numbers of the Rush-Light goes to England to-morrow, by His Majesty's Packet. As I have given directions to my correspondent, Mr. Wright of Piccadilly, to re-publish them regularly, on my own account; and, as it is possible that the re-publication may yield some little matter towards a reparation of my loss, I trust that no bookseller in Great Britain will do any thing to thwart my interest, and I further trust, that every loyal Briton, whether Book-seller or not, into whose hands the work shall fall, will use the utmost of his endeavours for giving it circulation.

PORCUPINE'S WORKS will be published in LONDON. Rush's destructive seizure at Philadelphia nearly spoiled that part of the edition, which was printed there, and I find that the duty on the sets to be sent to England, Jamaica, &c. would amount to more than the print and paper of what I have already done. The work will, besides, be done better in London; and, in that City, there are no *philanthropick* juries.—Part of the copy is already sent forward. To get the work out here will unavoidably take some time, but I trust that the increase of matter, which that time will give rise to, and the great advantages to be derived from perfect freedom in the printing and publishing, will be looked upon as an ample compensation for the delay. If, however, there be, amongst the few American subscribers who have paid in advance, any one that dislikes the alteration of my plan, I am ready upon the first intimation, to return him his money.

END OF NO. II.—MARCH 10, 1800.